
**THE INDUSTRIAL TOXICS PROJECT,
THE 33/50 PROGRAM:
FORGING AN ALLIANCE
FOR POLLUTION PREVENTION**



WHAT IS THE 33/50 PROGRAM (INDUSTRIAL TOXICS PROJECT)?

The 33/50 Program (Industrial Toxics Project) is a voluntary pollution prevention initiative that builds squarely on the Agency's pollution prevention policies and programs. It aims, through voluntary pollution prevention activities, to reduce releases and off-site transfers of a targeted set of 17 chemicals from an aggregate of 1.4 billion pounds in 1988, down to 700 million pounds by 1995, a 50% overall reduction.

Major Project Goals

The principal goals the EPA Administrator has set for the 17 select chemicals are -- an interim one-third reduction in 1992; and a fifty percent reduction by 1995. The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) will be used to track these reductions, using 1988 data as a baseline. (An 18th substance, dioxin, is also targeted for reductions, but through a separate effort and with different reduction goals.)

The second, and equally significant goal of the Program is to achieve these reductions primarily through pollution prevention practices and to encourage industry to further develop its pollution prevention activities.

What Are the Target Chemicals?

The 17 chemical groups are:

Benzene

Cadmium and Cadmium Compounds

Carbon Tetrachloride

Chloroform (Trichloromethane)

Chromium and Chromium Compounds

Cyanide Compounds and Hydrogen Cyanide

Lead and Lead Compounds

Mercury and Mercury Compounds

Methylene Chloride (Dichloromethane)

Methyl Ethyl Ketone

Methyl Isobutyl Ketone

Nickel and Nickel Compounds

Tetrachloroethylene (Perchloroethylene)

Toluene

1,1,1-Trichloroethane (Methyl Chloroform)

Trichloroethylene

Xylenes (all xylenes)

The list of chemicals is drawn from the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) based on recommendations by EPA program offices and considering the following: high production; high releases and off-site transfers relative to total production as indicated from TRI reports; potential for pollution prevention activities; and potential for a wide range of health and environmental effects. For tracking purposes, each chemical will be tracked based on the way it is listed under TRI.

How Does the 33/50 Program Signal a New Approach?

The 33/50 Program, which is being managed by the Special Projects Office in the Office of Toxic Substances, differs from EPA's traditional command and control approach. The following project description reveals these differences. The 33/50 Program is:

National In Scope. Success will be measured according to whether reductions have been achieved nationwide, rather than for each company or facility. The reductions will also be looked at as an aggregate -- total releases of all chemicals rather than for each one. This provides flexibility and allows participating companies to develop reduction strategies which are the most cost-effective for their facilities.

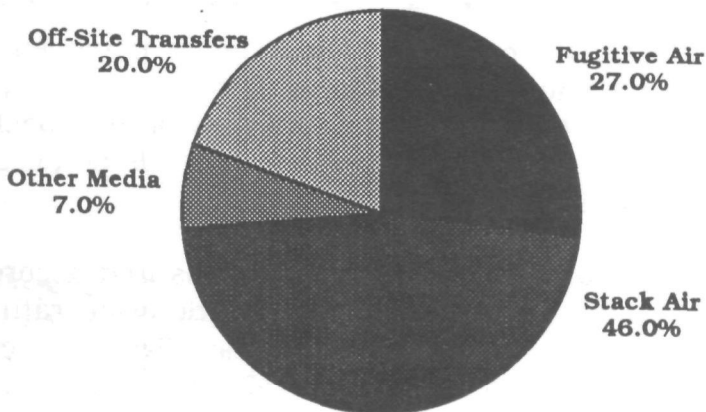
Voluntary. Companies are free to decide whether or not to participate in the program by: 1) committing to meet their own specified reduction goals, and 2) making good faith voluntary efforts to identify and implement cost-effective prevention measures. Any steps taken to reduce targeted toxics will not be enforceable, unless these activities are otherwise required by law or regulation.

Multi-media. The reduction goals apply to total releases and off-site transfers to air, land, and water.

Prevention-oriented. EPA's objective is to encourage these reductions through pollution prevention. The pollution prevention hierarchy, as established in the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990, states that pollution should be prevented or reduced at the source whenever feasible; this is a fundamental goal of the project. Pollution that cannot be prevented at the source should be recycled in an environmentally safe manner. In the absence of feasible prevention or recycling opportunities, pollution should be treated; disposal or other release to the environment should be used as the last resort. Companies are encouraged to participate, however, even if some of the reductions are achieved through treatment.

Releases of 33/50 Program Chemicals By Media

Total = 1.4 Billion Pounds



Percent of total Releases and Transfers

What Are the Advantages of A Voluntary Approach?

EPA's voluntary program is designed to benefit:

The Public

- By significantly reducing the amount of pollution released to the environment.
- By getting faster reductions than might be achieved by waiting for statutes or regulations to take effect, and by achieving permanent solutions where source reductions occur.

Industry

- By creating clear expectations in the form of a national goal for the targeted chemicals, and by providing the flexibility to choose cost-effective environmental solutions which may also result in improved efficiency and net economic benefits.
- By providing positive incentive through public recognition of its efforts, and by working to identify regulatory barriers to pollution prevention.

EPA

- By developing an alternative to the reliance on the traditional command and control, single media approach.

What Is EPA Asking Companies to Do?

EPA has already contacted hundreds of companies to provide them with information on the 33/50 Program and continues to solicit company participation. Each company is being asked to examine its processes to identify and implement cost-effective pollution prevention practices related to the project chemicals. Companies are also being asked to develop written commitments to publicly state their reduction goals and how they plan to achieve them. A public docket at EPA Headquarters is being established to provide access to these written commitment statements. The following are general guidelines and "milestones" for what EPA is asking companies to do. While the bulk of activities are expected to occur within the stated timeframes, EPA realizes differences in company organizations and capabilities may make these dates unattainable for some companies. Information received by these dates will be used to prepare periodic progress reports on the initial implementation of the program.

- May 15, 1991 - receipt of companywide quantitative commitments by EPA.
- July 30, 1991 - receipt by EPA of facility specific and chemical specific quantitative reduction commitments including discussion of pollution prevention activities, as appropriate.
- November 30, 1991 - receipt of updated information, as needed, on company and facility specific commitments as a result of activities with other regulatory planning or "Toxic Use Reduction" programs, or the "Early Reductions" Program for the Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) Standards under the Clean Air Act.

Relationship to Other EPA Activities

Relationship to Other EPA Programs and Offices

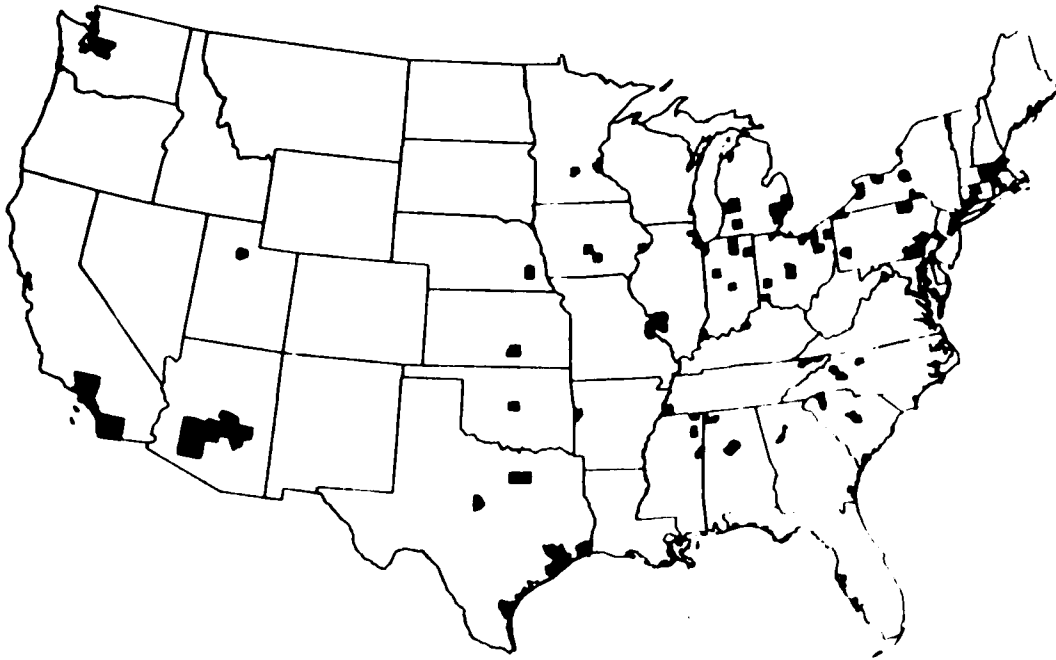
The 33/50 Program (Industrial Toxics Project) is part of the Agency's overall Pollution Prevention Strategy and the first of its new pollution prevention initiatives. It is also a major component of the Office of Toxic Substances' Existing Chemicals Revitalization Program.

As has previously been stated, the 33/50 Program will use EPA's Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) to track emissions reductions. Addition of new TRI reporting elements required by the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 will also provide valuable information for evaluating progress and the utilization of pollution prevention for the project chemicals.

Although all of the 33/50 Program chemicals are regulated under one or more existing environmental statutes, it is important to note that the ITP is a voluntary activity which is intended to complement, not replace, on-going Agency programs. One area of complementary activity is the Clean Air Program. All of the project chemicals will be subject to the "Maximum Achievable Control Technology" (MACT) standards of the new Clean Air Act (CAA). EPA believes this incentive for early reductions may benefit the 33/50 Program in achieving its reduction goals. It should also be noted, however, that any commitments that companies make under the Clean Air program are enforceable, and must conform to relevant provisions of the CAA and its implementing regulations. Not all reductions made for the 33/50 Program will entitle companies to CAA credit, although the Agency will work toward maximizing the overlap.

Enforcement is another area where there is potential for overlap. However, nothing in the 33/50 Program is intended to interfere with on-going enforcement or permitting activities related to the project chemicals. Conversely, participation in the 33/50 Program is not intended as a basis for any company or facility-specific increased enforcement activity. Because it is a strictly voluntary program, companies that elect not to participate will not be penalized in any way by EPA.

1988 TRI Releases/Transfers of Project Chemicals Top 100 Counties



Roles of EPA Regional Offices and States

A critical role in the implementation of the 33/50 Program will be played by EPA's Regional Offices, and with them, interested States. During the initial phase, Regions will work with specific companies and facilities to encourage companies to participate in this initiative and to provide written reduction commitments. (While early participation is encouraged, companies can continue to "sign on" at any point during the project.)

The next focus of activity will be implementation of the reduction commitments by companies and facilities. While facility plans developed to meet state toxics use reduction requirements can be used for the 33/50 Program, reduction commitments made for the 33/50 Program are not meant to preempt any state requirements. Regions, in partnership with interested States, will play an essential outreach role throughout the project including identifying potential obstacles, technical assistance needs, areas of possible duplication, and areas of significant success. These activities will continue toward the target of 50% aggregate national reductions by 1995, and toward the larger goal of fostering a national pollution prevention ethic and a cleaner environment.

How to Get More Information

For additional copies of this brochure or other 33/50 documents, fax your request to the TSCA Assistance Service at (202) 554-5603. For more information on the 33/50 Program, contact the TSCA Hotline at (202) 554-1404, (8:30 am to 4:00 pm), or the Regional Coordinator for your Region:

Region 1

Dwight Peavey, (617) 565-4502
(Massachusetts, Maine, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont)

Region 2

Barbara Metzger (201) 321-6754
(New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands)

Region 3

Bill Reilly, (215) 597-9390
(Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, District of Columbia)

Region 4

Carlton Hailey, (404) 347-1033
(Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee)

Region 5

Tony Restaino, (312) 886-6018
(Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin)

Region 6

Bob Murphy, (214) 655-7235
(Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas)

Region 7

Carl Walter, (913) 551-7020
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Region 8

Diane Groh, (303) 293-1735
(Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming)

Region 9

Donna Deneen,
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Region 10

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(Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington)